

AS

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 95-1217-C - ORDER NO. 96-173 ✓
MARCH 8, 1996

IN RE: Request to be Provided Local Exchange) ORDER
 Service by BellSouth instead of GTE) DENYING
 South, Inc. from a Group of Thirteen (13)) PETITION
 Residents in the Pamlico Exchange.)

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on the Petition of thirteen (13) residents in the Pamlico Exchange to receive telephone service from BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. (BellSouth) instead of GTE South, Inc. (GTE).

The Commission held a public hearing on this matter on February 22, 1996, at 10:30 a.m. in its offices, with the Honorable Rudolph Mitchell, Chairman, presiding. Mr. J. L. Ross, one of the Pamlico petitioners, appeared pro se to testify. The Companies present were BellSouth, represented by Patrick Turner, Esquire, and GTE, represented by Margaret Fox, Esquire. BellSouth presented the testimony of Judy Nell Chambers, and GTE presented the testimony of David E. Robinson. The Commission Staff was present and represented by F. David Butler, General Counsel.

Mr. J. L. Ross testified that he had been a subscriber of GTE telephone service for some 22 years, and that almost everywhere he called from his house seemed to be a long distance call, resulting

in high telephone bills. He testified that as a small business man, he could not afford the high telephone bills received by him, and that he would appreciate being served by BellSouth in order to relieve some of his high bill problems.

Judy Nell Chambers, Manager of the Regulatory Department for BellSouth, testified and stated that in order to serve the customers in Pamplico as described, BellSouth would be required to place 4.4 miles of new cable at an overall cost of \$88,000 to serve these customers. This amounts to a capital outlay of over \$6,700 per customer. Accordingly, BellSouth's recommendation is that GTE be allowed to continue serving the customers in the Pamplico Exchange.

David E. Robinson, Product Manager for Local Services for GTE Telephone Operations also testified. Robinson noted that GTE management in the Pamplico area had gathered local customer information indicating that the two major factors prompting this Petition were that the Pamplico Exchange was not included in the initial introduction of GTE's Local Calling Plan (LCP) deployment in June 1995, and that some customers would like to have additional switched-based optional calling features. Robinson recognized the concern of the Pamplico customers, and stated that the LCP's were introduced in waves beginning in June 1995, and that a LCP would be introduced in the Pamplico area in the third quarter of 1996. Mr. Robinson felt that long distance telephone bills such as those received by Mr. Ross would be reduced to some degree after the deployment of this Plan in the Pamplico area.

Robinson also stated that other switched-based calling features will be deployed in Pamplico in the future.

The Commission has examined this matter, and is in great sympathy with Mr. Ross and the other Petitioners in this case. However, it appears that GTE is attempting to solve their problems through deployment of a LCP systems in the Pamplico area, and future introduction of switched-based calling features. Further, it appears to be extremely expensive for BellSouth to serve these customers. We therefore hold that the Petition is denied, and that GTE shall continue to serve these customers.

This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:


Chairman

ATTEST:


Executive Director

(SEAL)